acme団 presents

SAIRUIU

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chapter 3

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The Voices of Cicadas

The Voices of Cicadas

chirp chirp
...CALLING THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING?
BE QUIET...
BEEP
HUH? THEY HUNG UP!
WHO'S...
...CHIEF?
OH...
Incoming Calls
Outgoing Call
OH YEAH...
WELL, I WAS HAVING A BAD DREAM, SO I GUESS IT WORKED OUT...
HE REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TO...
RIGHT... HE SAID HE'D GIVE ME A WAKE-UP CALL OR SOMETHING...
SNAP
NNGH
Year after year, I keep seeing the same dream.
mmm
mmm

Dreams, during the season when cicadas cry
MORN-ING...
GOOD MORNING
HM?
WELL YOU'RE EARLY TODAY, IWASAKI-KUN
DID YOU GET YOURSELF A GIRLFRIEND?
Haha
NO,
I'M REALLY NOT THAT POPULAR
Oh, please.
YOU SURE YOUR NEW GIRLFRIEND DIDN'T GIVE YOU A WAKE-UP CALL?
thump
A WAKE-UP CALL...
SO YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ONE? I COULD INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE.
I HEAR IT ALL THE TIME, THEY SAY YOU'RE CUTE AND MODEST...
I'D BE NICE IF I HAD SOMEONE TO DO THAT FOR ME
WHO SAID THAT?
!

HEY, COULD ONE OF YOU LEND ME A RAZOR?
EITHER ONE OF YOU'S FINE
MORNIN' ..
SECTION CHIEF KUROIWA
Good morning!
NOPE... EVEN IF I DID, WELL..
ANYWAY, WHO'S CUTE?
Thanks
Either one of us?
YOU DIDN'T GO HOME YESTERDAY?
What's that supposed to mean?
nod
nod
smile
YUP
HE'S CUTE
..
Well,
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT IWASAKI-KUN
IWA-SAKI?
SHE WAS JUST JOKING...

The chief doesn't have enough time to go around waking up just any subordinate.
...CHIEF,
...MM
HM...?
YOUR STUBBLE...
It kinda hurts
And we're in the bathroom.
OH.
RIGHT, I CAME IN HERE TO SHAVE.
Ah...
...YOUR WIFE, TOO?
SO YOU DON'T LIKE BEARDS EITHER, HUH?
HM...
As in... we're kind of going out,
SORRY, MY BAD.
No, I'm a flirt too
Or should I say, having an affair...
It's an affair

YES.
...REALLY?
THEN...
THEN CAN I GO LIKE THIS?
Er
rub
IT'S FINE, REALLY.
PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THAT'S WHY I WENT FOR YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.

The people I go out with always fall into the same category.
THEN LEND ME YOUR SHOULDER FOR A BIT...
lean
and kind.
THERE, NOW I FEEL BETTER.
THANKS. I'M OFF.
Older, married,
CHIEF..
FIVE MORE MINUTES...
WE SHOULD REALLY GO SOON..
IS HE TIRED...?

It's easier to break up on good terms.
...THIS MIGHT BE IT
click
SO THIS WEEKEND FOR SURE, ALRIGHT?
WE DIDN'T GET TO MEET UP LAST WEEKEND,
That way,
shut
RIGHT, HIS WIFE'S BIRTHDAY...
LAST WEEKEND ...
click
WELL... NO NEED TO RUSH, I GUESS
click
If we're going to break up anyway,
!
then it might as well be a quiet,
Shut
creak
peaceful...

Nothing good ever happens when I see that dream.
WHO?
THAT WEIRDO, EZO!
YOU SERIOUSLY DON'T KNOW HIM?
Bar furin
Stab
YOU REALLY DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYONE BUT MARRIED MEN, DO YOU?
HE HAS A BUZZ CUT, GLASSES, AND WEARS A WAISTCOAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SUMMER
Everyone in the company knows him!
Huh?
IS HE FAMOUS?
Secretaries sure know their stuff
AND HE WAS READING A BOOK CALLED "100 FAMOUS CURRY SHOPS"...
WE MADE SURE NO ONE WAS THERE BEFORE WE WENT IN. AND I DON'T THINK ANYONE CAME IN AFTER US... BUT THERE HE WAS, SOMEHOW...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT..
I WAS TOO SHOCKED AT THE TIME, BUT...
DIDN'T YOU THINK THERE WAS SOMETHING OFF ABOUT HIM?
In a stall?
In a stall

I HEAR HE'S [redacted] PRESIDENT'S ILLEGITIMATE CHILD...
SO THE RUMORS ARE PROBABLY EXAGGERATED BUT...
I WONDER IF THAT'S ALSO TRUE?
APPARENTLY,
HE WEARS A DIFFERENT PAIR OF GLASSES EVERY SINGLE DAY
THAT?
...?
AND...?
HE'S BEEN WITH THE COMPANY FOR 5 YEARS!
5!!
HE EVEN HAS SPARES FOR WHEN HE HAS TO STAY AND WORK OVERNIGHT!
Like Jimi Hendrix
That's nothing special
...I UNDERSTAND THAT HE'S STRANGE,
BUT NOW, I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
DID YOU TALK TO THE CHIEF ABOUT IT?
...
DO YOU WANT TO BREAK UP?
NOT YET.
OR MAYBE WE SHOULD BREAK UP BEFORE IT GETS ANY WORSE...

HUH? NO.
BUT THAT ISN'T THE ISSUE...
THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO IS WAIT IT OUT, FOR NOW.
YEAH...
It's not that I want to break up, but..
AN AFFAIR ISN'T REALLY SOMETHING I SHOULD BE ROOTING FOR
WELL, WHATEVER
Dreams
are something you have to wake up from.
IN THE END,
I GUESS WE'RE SAFE FOR THE TIME BEING
IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS AND NOTHING'S HAPPENED
BUT..
THERE'S NO SAYING WHEN IT'LL HAPPEN AGAIN
BANG

GOOD AFTER-NOON.
HM?
OH, YOU'RE...
EZO-SAN...
THE ONE WHO WAS DEEPENING RELATIONS WITH SOME SECTION CHIEF IN A PUBLIC RESTROOM DURING WORK HOURS, WITHOUT REGARD TO THE FACT THAT OTHER PEOPLE MIGHT GO IN.
UM...
UHH...
HAHA, CALM DOWN.
RIGHT, IWAS, KI-KLIN.
DON'T WORRY, I DON'T PLAN ON TELLING ANYONE
...

SO WE'RE ALRIGHT, FOR NOW...
I SEE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YOU...
DON'T REALLY LOOK THAT RELIEVED.
DID YOU WANT TO BREAK UP?
WHAT?
NO...
...WELL, I DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF BUTTING INTO YOUR LOVE LIFE.
I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS A LITTLE STRANGE.
EVEN IF YOU'RE ONLY INTERESTED IN MEN,
YOU'RE YOUNG, AND I DON'T THINK YOU'D HAVE PROBLEMS GETTING A PARTNER SO THEN WHY...
OH,
The cicadas cry.

whoosh
DID YOU HAVE A PAINFUL BREAK UP OR SOMETHING ..?
The cicadas cry
mlim
mlim
mlim
mlim
mlim
During the season when they die, crying,
I'M JUST AN ODDBALL, TALKING TO HIMSELF.
I have dreams
HAHA
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
PLEASE DON'T MIND ME LET'S JUST SAY...
PARDON

chirp
chirp
miiin
miiin
JUST WAIT HERE, ALRIGHT?
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
miiin

HEY!
step
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU'VE BEEN BY YOURSELF THIS WHOLE TIME.
FOR WHO?
...I'M WAITING.
...MY MOM.
I SEE. HIS MOTHER...
IT'S QUITE HOT TODAY, TOO.
I HOPE SHE COMES BACK SOON...

...YOU CAN'T MAKE IT?

I'M SORRY!
IT'S ALRIGHT
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
...SORRY
I HAVE... UM, FAMILY MATTERS TO ATTEND TO.
FAMILY...
It's time to end this.
REALLY, IT'S...
And make that day the last...
...ALRIGHT.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
LET'S TAKE IT EASY NEXT WEEKEND AND GO SOMEWHERE A LITTLE FURTHER.
THEN IS IT ALRIGHT IF I INVITE YOU AGAIN?

RIGHT,
I STILL HAVE TO UNSET IT...
WHO IS IT...
IT'S THE WEEKEND
HUH? AN ALARM?
OH.
SNAP
"I BOUGHT SOME ICE CREAM! CHOCOLATE AND VANILLA. PICK WHICHEVER ONE YOU WANT!"
WELL, WE'D MEET EVERY WEEKEND, BUT IT'D NEVER REALLY BE FOR THAT LONG
Like overnight or something
..
Huh
Stare
Vanilla
Go ahead
Finished eating
Really?!
BESIDES,
HE PROBABLY JUST WANTED BOTH KINDS HIMSELF...
Haha

NOW I FEEL LIKE EATING ICE CREAM...
DO I REGRET THIS...?
NO, I'M JUST BEING SENTIMENTAL
IT'S NOT LIKE I HATE HIM OR ANYTHING
FLASH!
ACTRESS A AFFAIR
SO...
NO MATTER WHAT I DO THINGS WILL COME TO AN END
BESIDES I ALREADY KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN

...SEE?
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT
IT'S...
OH,
BUT...

SQUEEZE
I TOLD HIM IT WAS ALL RIGHT...
IF HE WAS GOING OUT WITH HIS WIFE,
HE COULD'VE JUST SAID SO
slide
IWASAKI-KUN?
THEY WERE REALLY GETTING ALONG
LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING WELL FOR THEM
HELLO...
SHOCK

.. ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YES.
BUT IT'S FINE. I WAS PLANNING ON BREAKING UP WITH HIM, ANYWAY
OH, I SEE. THE CHIEF AND HIS WIFE WERE..
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
SO ..
I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS ..
DON'T MIND ME
WOULD RATHER ABANDON SOMEONE BEFORE THEY ARE ABANDONED THEMSELVES
BESIDES, THAT'S A NATURAL REACTION
ANYONE

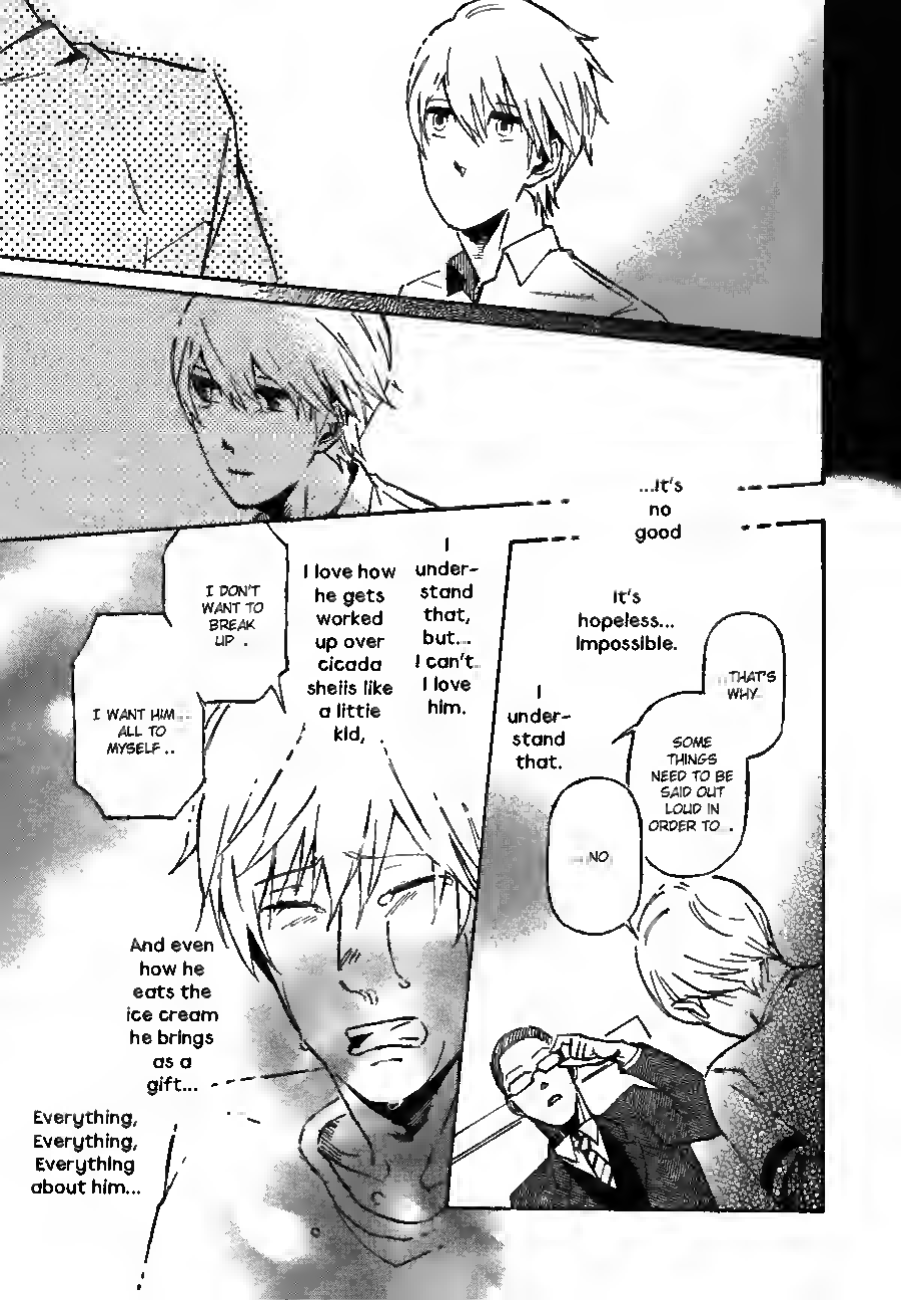
mīīn
In my head,
...
THEN...
The cicadas cry
The cicadas from that time keep crying
WHAT ABOUT...
THE ONE WHO GETS ABANDONED?
WHAT...
ABOUT ME...?
For as long as I can remember, my mother was never there.
The first woman my father brought back home was young and beautiful.
After she left me in the park, we never saw her again.

It was seven days after he got remarried.
...-KUN?
IWASAKI -KUN?
I'M SO SORRY, I...
IT'S FINE
I APOLOGIZE IF I SAID SOMETHING RUDE.
I'M RATHER DENSE WHEN IT COMES TO PEOPLES FEELINGS.

ANYWAY,
I SUPPOSE I HAD IT COMING, BUT...
ONE TIME, SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO ME LEFT ME BEHIND.
I THOUGHT WE BOTH UNDERSTOOD,
SO I NEVER TOLD HER HOW I FELT.
I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHY SHE LEFT.
BUT... THAT DAY,
SHE LEFT A PAIR OF GLASSES BEHIND.
SO, I TRIED PUTTING THEM ON
EVERYTHING WAS SO BLURRY THAT MY LEGS ALMOST GAVE OUT ON ME.
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED
I WAS SURPRISED. I HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS WEARING SOMETHING LIKE THAT THE WHOLE TIME.

WE WERE TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
BUT THAT'S ALSO...
WHY SHE WAS SO IMPORTANT TO ME.
mitin
mitin
mitin
mitin
THOSE ARE NICE VOICES
HM?
YEAH...
CAN'T HAVE SUMMER WITHOUT 'EM, RIGHT?
IT'S JUST... I FIND IT SAD THAT THEY DIE IN ONLY 7 DAYS.
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE THEM...
OH. SORRY, DON'T LIKE THEM?
YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON, IWASAKI.

rustle
ANYWAY, THINGS AREN'T THAT DIFFERENT FOR US, EITHER
LIFE'S KIND OF LIKE AN ILLUSION
ILLUSION
OH!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I DON'T THINK WE EVER TALKED ABOUT...
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT...
Look look
IT'S A BIG CICADA SHELL!
BUT EVEN THEN,
HERE WE ARE,
WALKING,
TALKING,
AND LEAVING SOMETHING BEHIND
So things keep moving forward
That's why we're here.
THE VOICES OF CICADAS
ARE THE VOICES OF LIFE.


...It's no good
It's hopeless... Impossible.
I understand that.
...NO
...THAT'S WHY
SOME THINGS NEED TO BE SAID OUT LOUD IN ORDER TO .
I understand that, but... I can't I love him.
I love how he gets worked up over cicada sheiis like a littie kid,
I DON'T WANT TO BREAK UP .
I WANT HIM ... ALL TO MYSELF ..
And even how he eats the ice cream he brings as a gift...
Everything, Everything, Everything about him...

YOU'RE SAYING THIS TO THE WRONG PERSON
...CHIEF?
WHY ARE YOU AT MY HOUSE? WEREN'T YOU WITH YOUR WIFE
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I SAW YOU TOGETHER BY COINCIDENCE
REALLY? WELL, GOOD TIMING
HUH ?
thump

I... WANT TO GET THIS OVER WITH
...YOU
YOU MEAN, YOU WANT TO...
WILL YOU COME LIVE WITH ME?!
NO!!

That was fast
I WON'T..!
..
WHAT!?
WAIT,
YEAH...
WE GOT DIVORCED.
?
LIVE WITH YOU...?
DID YOU JUST SAY
B-BUT ISN'T YOUR WIFE AT HOME...?
?
DIVORCED ?!
I TOLD HER EVERYTHING, SO SHE MOVED OUT. IT TOOK A WHILE, BUT WE JUST FINISHED THE P. IPERWORK TODAY.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT...?
scratch
WELL...
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN
BUT,
Fresh out of divorce

YOU'RE A REALLY SENSIBLE PERSON... ALMOST TOO SENSIBLE.
YOU MIGHT BACK OUT IF YOU KNEW AN OLD MAN LIKE ME WAS SERIOUS
BUT THEN, A YOUNGER, MORE ATTRACTIVE GUY MIGHT...
UMM
IN OTHER WORDS, WELL...
I... WAS SCARED.
OH, BUT..
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO,
THEN JUST SAY...
There are so many things that I want to ask, and say.
But all I can manage is meaning-less noises.
It almost makes me wish...
that I could cry, just as perfectly as the cicadas.
End